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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the consideration shown by the Office as evidenced by the Office Action mailed on February 22, 2005. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 33-50, 53-55, and 59-61. The Examiner further objected to claims 51, 52, and 56-58, and allowed claim 62. In this Response, Applicants have canceled claim 56; have amended claims 33, 36, 40, 41, 43, 55, and 59; and have added new claim 63. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the above amendments and the following remarks offered in response to the Office Action.

1. Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 36, 41-44, and 59-61 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 36 was also objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c). Claim 36 has been amended to directly and explicitly recite that the second coating layer consists essentially of Al. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 36 is in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Moreover, claim 36 is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.75(c), in that its recitation of a coating layer consisting essentially of aluminum is a further limitation on the subject matter of independent claim 33, where the layer is recited to comprise at least about 90 atomic percent aluminum.

Claims 41 and 43 have been amended such that the recited elements of the claims are necessarily present in the claimed amounts. Claim 40, which was not included in the section 112 rejection, has been amended to more clearly recite the Markush group of elements which may be present in the alloy of the recited embodiment.

Claim 59 has been amended to depend from claim 49 to provide proper antecedent basis for the recited coating layer, and the recitation of the second coating layer has been removed. Applicants have included new claim 63, which depends from claim 33 and recites the embodiment wherein a thermal barrier coating is disposed over the second coating layer.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments described above render the claims at issue compliant with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

2. Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. §§102-103

In rejecting claims 33-50, 53-55, 59, and 60, the Examiner applied Fisher et al., U.S. 6,585,864. Applicants have amended independent claim 33 to include the limitation "providing a

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substrate, ~~said substrate comprising a superalloy~~," which limitation is not taught, suggested, or disclosed by the applied reference. Fisher clearly states that the substrate is to comprise stainless steel, and does not teach, suggest, or disclose that the coating system described therein could be successfully applied to other substrate materials. Moreover, the superalloy limitation was recited in originally filed claim 56, now cancelled with its limitation incorporated into claim 33, and this superalloy limitation of claim 56 was noted by the Examiner to be allowable subject matter. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 33 is patentably distinct from Fisher. Furthermore, all of the other claims rejected under the applied reference depend from claim 33, and so all of these claims are also allowable due to their dependency from an allowable base claim. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of these previously rejected claims.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claim 62 and his determination that claims 51, 52, 56, 58, and 61 recite allowable subject matter. As claims 51, 52, 56, 58, and 61 depend from claim 33, which Applicants believe to be allowable for reasons described above, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable due to their dependence from an allowable base claim.

4. Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and the remarks presented herein, Applicants submit that the case is in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully request such action. If, however, any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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